United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1554
5 January 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General recommends to Security Council that United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda continue with its mandate; reporting on mission's first 90 days, he says parties have shown good will in implementing elements of Arusha peace agreement.

+ Bosnian Prime Minister and Croatian Foreign Minister, continuing talks in Vienna, issue statement saying they have made progress; leaders of their respective countries are to meet in Bonn this weekend.

+ Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose (United Kingdom) is to take over command of UNPROFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina before end of January, replacing Lieutenant General Francis Briquemont (Belgium).

+ Former Chief Justice of Zimbabwe, Enoch Dumbutshena, appointed by Secretary-General as Independent Jurist in Somalia to deal with matters relating to detainees held by UNOSOM II.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended to the Security Council that the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) continue to implement its mandate. The Council, when it established UNAMIR for a period of six months last October, made its extension beyond the initial 90 days dependent on whether or not the Secretary-General reported that substantive progress had been made towards implementing the Arusha peace agreement. In a report dated 30 December, issued today, Mr. Boutros-Ghali concluded that, despite recent signs of intransigence, the parties had continued to show good will and cooperation in their contacts with each other and with the United Nations.

"They have also managed to weather some tense and potentially disruptive moments in the wake of the events in Burundi," he said. "In addition, the fact that the cease-fire has generally been respected demonstrates that the parties remain committed to the peace and reconciliation process initiated by the Arusha agreement".

(more)

For information media--not an official record

The initial deployment of UNAMIR had proceeded largely on schedule, he continued. However, its logistical support capabilities were still inadequate and there were growing tensions in parts of the country. Therefore, the personnel required for the second phase of the operation should be deployed as soon as possible. A reduction in the projected resource levels for the mission, he stressed, would negatively affect the performance and credibility of UNAMIR and would jeopardize the peace process in Rwanda. (S/26927)

* * *

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic met again in Vienna today, continuing the bilateral talks they began Tuesday. Following yesterday's meeting, they issued a joint statement saying they had made some progress on humanitarian issues. Mr. Silajdzic and Dr. Granic are today addressing two of the most difficult issues facing their respective Republics - the seige of Bosnian Croats in the Lasa Valley of Central Bosnia and the Muslim demand for a land corridor to the Adriatic Sea.

The two leaders issued a joint statement saying they had agreed to make firm efforts to prepare a cease-fire implementation plan and further that the leaders of their respective countries are to meet this weekend in Bonn. These talks come in advance of the next formal peace conference which is scheduled for Geneva on 18 January. The two international mediators, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, are in communication with the participants in the Vienna talks but are not presiding at the talks.

* * *

It was announced today that Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose (United Kingdom) will take over command of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina before the end of January. He will be replacing Lieutenant General Francis Briquemont (Belgium), who has held the position since June 1993. According to a United Nations spokesman, Lieutenant General Briquemont asked to be relieved of his duties with UNPROFOR for personal reasons.

Lieutenant General Rose, who was commissioned into the Coldstream Guards in 1964, has served in Aden, Northern Ireland, Germany and the Falkland Islands. Prior to his appointment last year as Commander with the United Kingdom Field Army and Inspector General of the Territorial Army, he was Commandant of the Staff College, Camberley, in England.

* * *

The former Chief Justice of Zimbabwe, Enoch Dumbutshena, has been appointed by the Secretary-General as the Independent Jurist to deal with matters relating to detainees held by the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II).

(more)

According to a United Nations spokesman, Mr. Dumbutshena arrived in Mogadishu yesterday and has already started to carry out his assignment. Pending the re-establishment of the country's judicial system, UNOSOM has held people believed to have been involved in attacks against its personnel or in other criminal actions, while it awaited the appointment of the Independent Jurist.

* *** *